

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 SSO-00 /011 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:PWLANDE/MW
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TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 101686

FOR CHARGE FROM DUBS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MORG, PK, US

SUBJECT: ODRP

1. SENATE AND HOUSE ARE CURRENTLY CONSIDERING SECURITY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION INCLUDING STATUS OF MAAGS. THE HOUSE COMMITTEE VOTED A SHARP REDUCTION IN MAAGS, INCLUDING ELIMINATION OF ODRP. THE SENATE COMMITTEE IS IN THE PROCESS OF VOTING A SMALLER GLOBAL CUT, BUT ONE WHICH WOULD ALSO ELIMINATE ODRP. (UNDER BOTH THE HOUSE AND SENATE BILLS WE WOULD STILL BE AUTHORIZED TO MAINTAIN A SIX-MAN OFFICE OF DEFENSE COOPERATION IN PAKISTAN AND OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE MAAGS WOULD BE ELIMINATED.)

2. NEITHER DSAA NOR STATE SEE DIFFICULTIES WITH SIX-MAN STAFFING WHICH COULD BE ABSORBED BY ELIMINATING ODRP AIRCRAFT. WE DECIDED NOT TO OPPOSE ELIMINATION OF MAAG
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STATUS ON PURELY POLITICAL GROUNDS SINCE THIS ACTION WAS PART OF OVERALL GLOBAL REDUCTION AFFECTING MANY COUNTRIES (E.G. ETHIOPIA, ARGENTINA, REPUBLIC OF CHINA, BOLIVIA, COLOMBIA, JAPAN AND VENEZUELA). QUESTION OF ODRP WAS RAISED BY SENATOR JAVITS WHO SUGGESTED SUBCOMMITTEE SHOULD TAKE NO RASH ACTION WHEN "BHUTTO HAD HIS BACK AGAINST THE WALL."

IN LIGHT OF STRONG SENTIMENT AMONG OTHER SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS TO REDUCE NUMBER OF MAAGS WORLDWIDE, ADMINISTRATION

REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSED OPINION THAT SECURITY ASSISTANCE FUNCTIONS IN PAKISTAN COULD BE ADEQUATELY HANDLED BY SIX VICE EIGHT MILITARY PERSONNEL.

3. WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED ON DEVELOPMENTS AND YOU NEED NOT TAKE ANY ACTION. HOWEVER, ISSUE HAS SURFACED IN WASHINGTON POST STORY ON MAY 4 AND YOU MAY RECEIVE INQUIRIES FROM GOP.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** ONLY

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, LAW, MILITARY ADVISERS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE101686
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PWLANDE/MW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770157-0026
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197705107/aaaafygt.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 03936088-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2339736
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 970910
Subject: ODRP
TAGS: MASS, MORG, PK, US
To: ISLAMABAD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/03936088-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009